

Region 7 Fact Sheet

Geographic summary

States: **Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska**

Tribes: **9 Tribes** - Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, Kickapoo, Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa (Meskwaki), Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Prairie Band Potawatomie Nation, Sac and Fox of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska, Santee Sioux Nation, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

Logistics

Regional Office headquarters: **Lenexa, KS (Kansas City suburb)**

Field offices: **Fenton, MO (St. Louis suburb)**

Laboratory: **Kansas City, KS** COOP facility: **Kansas City, MO**

Staff: **FTE Ceiling – 455.5**

Top environmental priorities and challenges

- **Lead Contamination & Exposures:** R7 has several key lead-related challenges including: 16 active large-scale Superfund sites addressing mine waste covering multiple counties and almost 10,000 acres, 10 sites with ongoing residential yard remediation; six areas that are/have been in violation of the lead NAAQS; and an estimated 59% of occupied housing units in the Region potentially have lead-based paint as they were built in 1979 or earlier.
- **Big River Superfund Site:** Ongoing remedial pilot projects are taking place in the lead-contaminated Big River watershed in Missouri to evaluate the effectiveness of remedial technologies. The projects are significant in scope, will span many years and involve federal and state partners. The site remedy is anticipated to exceed \$50M. An Administrator briefing will take place in Jan to discuss the preferred remedial alternative.
- **Agriculture Sector Partnerships:** Agriculture is the largest industry in R7 with over 286,000 ag production operations on about 82% of the land area. R7 focuses on partnering with the agribusiness community on preventing chemical accidents at anhydrous ammonia facilities and working with stakeholders to manage prescribed fire in the Flint Hills of Kansas to minimize smoke impacts to downwind communities while considering ecosystem preservation. R7 is also working to address non-point nutrient enrichment challenges in lakes, rivers, and streams and conducting research on harmful algal blooms to better inform the public and ag stakeholders.
- **West Lake Landfill Superfund Site:** This priority site outside St. Louis contains radiologically-impacted material from the Manhattan Project and a landfill, a portion of which has been smoldering since 2010. Community members, congressionals, and local leaders have historically expressed a high-level of interest in the site and concerns related to perceived health effects. Currently the remedial designs are being completed, a remedial investigation and feasibility study related to groundwater contamination has been initiated and frequent work status updates are provided to the community. *See Full Briefing Paper*
- **R7 Ethylene Oxide (EtO) Strategy:** After the 2018 update of the National Air Toxics Assessment identified EtO as a potential concern, R7 developed, led and coordinated with states and local air agencies a localized and proactive strategy related to six facilities who emit EtO. This effort is delivering voluntary emission reductions, improved relationships with the regulated community, and successful engagement with public officials.
- **Missouri Water Nutrient Criteria:** EPA's approval of Missouri's nutrient criteria in 2018 and current litigation challenging this approval may impact the way EPA reviews MO's assessment of water quality, including ensuring the approved criteria is being implemented consistent with EPA's defense of its approval in the development of future permits, TMDLs and lists of impaired waters pursuant to Section 303(d). *See Full Briefing Paper*
- **Missouri UST State Program Approval (SPA):** R7 is evaluating MO's re-SPA application to determine adequate program funding, authorities given to the state to implement the program, and deficiencies in the insurance mechanism. It is anticipated that this issue could generate political attention. *See Full Briefing Paper*
- **St. Louis Ozone Designation Remand:** As part of the 2015 Ozone NAAQS designations, two counties historically tied to St. Louis ozone nonattainment were designated as attainment, Jefferson County and Franklin County (partial). This allowed MO to request removal of the historical requirement for Inspection/Maintenance (I/M). (b) (5)

(b)(5) - Attorney Client Privilege

. *See Full Briefing Paper*